



The President's Daily Brief

1 February 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The ambush of the first petroleum convoy on Route 4 since its reopening occurred in an area where some enemy harassment has been continuing. (Page 1)

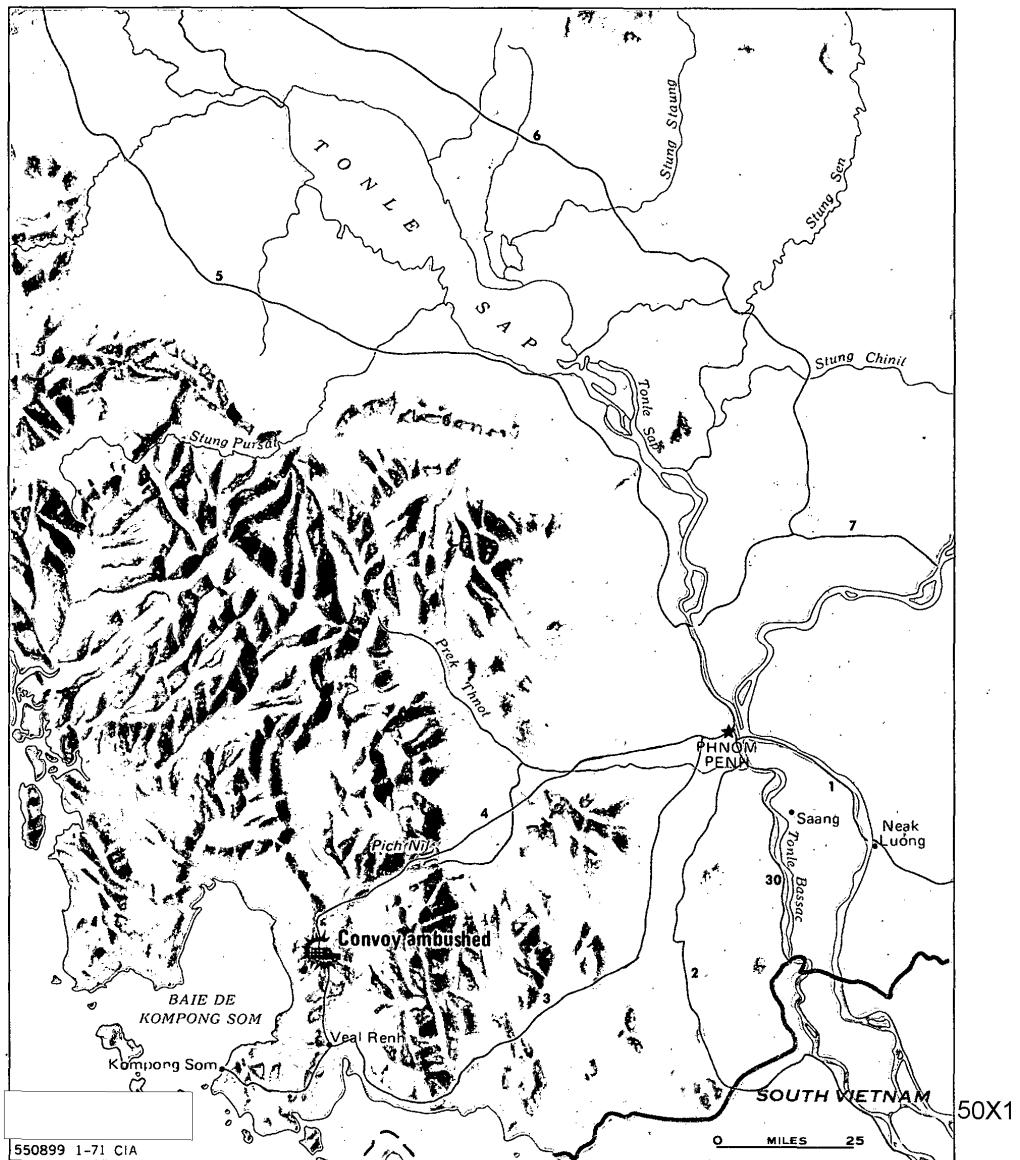
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The latest East German disruptions of civilian traffic to and from West Berlin have been the most severe of the past two months. (Page 2)

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CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

The first convoy of petroleum for Phnom Penh from the refinery at Kompong Som (Sihanoukville) was ambushed, despite air cover, on 30 January by Communist troops along Route 4 about 42 miles north of Kompong Som. At least ten of the 31 tanker trucks were destroyed or set afire and the remainder returned to Kompong Som. There have been several enemy harassing attacks against government positions in the same general area in the past few days.

Route 4, closed since November, had been declared officially open to civilian traffic during daylight hours by the Cambodian commander in the region, Sosthene Fernandez.

[redacted] that his forces could keep the road clear between Veal Renh and the Pich Nil pass in the stretch where the ambush later occurred, but that his units farther north near the pass were being harassed.

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A POL convoy coming by river from South Vietnam arrived safely in Phnom Penh on 29 January. The convoy, consisting of four oil barges and three tugs carrying 1,226,700 gallons of petroleum supplies, encountered two minor enemy attacks during the trip, but sustained no damage.

This was the first such resupply mission to reach the capital since 17 January.

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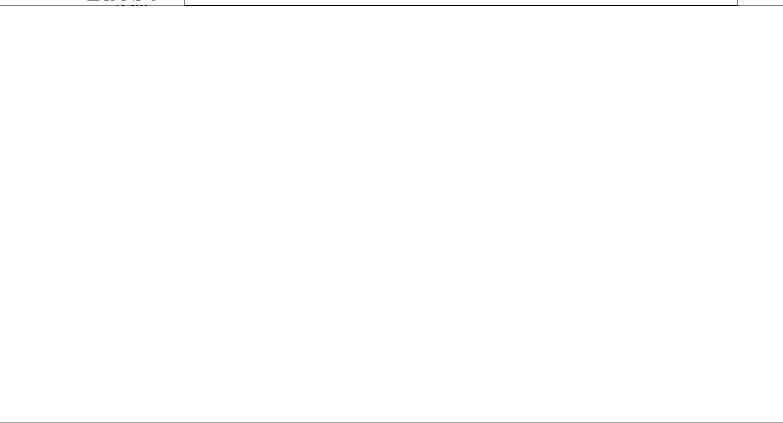
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NOTES

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Berlin: East German harassment of civilian traffic to and from West Berlin continues and is apparently intensifying as of Monday morning, despite the conclusion of the meeting of the West German Free Democratic Party on Saturday and the departures from Berlin of President Heinemann and of Chancellor Brandt on Sunday. The delays are the longest of the three harassing episodes experienced within the past two months, with traffic held up from ten to 18 hours at main checkpoints. There is considerable public resentment in West Berlin over the East German action and disappointment over the failure of Allied protests to prevent recurrences. US, UK, and French representatives in Bonn will review the situation this morning and decide whether the four-power advisory meeting on Berlin--scheduled for 2 February--should be canceled or postponed.

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